



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS) AND ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT)

Name of Proposal: 1995 LAND EXCHANGE INVOLVING WDFW WENAS WILDLIFE AREA

Description of Proposal:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes to mitigate for the loss of 77.46 acres of public outdoor recreation land that is protected through the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF), administered by the National Park Service (NPS) in partnership with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). This action is required because, in 1995, WDFW exchanged 77.46 acres of LWCF-funded land located in Yakima County with private landowners for other property. The NPS and RCO have determined that private ownership of these 77.46 acres is in violation of the LWCF Act's requirements that fund-assisted property be maintained by a government entity for public recreation in perpetuity.

WDFW proposes to remove federal protection from 77.46 privately-owned acres formerly in the Wenas Wildlife Area and allow WDFW to place that protection on the proposed replacement property of 221.32 acres in the Quilomene Unit of WDFW's L.T. Murray Wildlife Area along Skookumchuck Creek in Kittitas County. These 221.32 acres offer more acreage for equal property value and superior recreational opportunities.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Elyse Kane

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

600 Capitol Way North

Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 902-8415

Elyse.Kane@dfw.wa.gov

Location of Proposal: Land to be Converted is the 77.46 acre former WDFW property:

Yakima County, Section 24, Township 16 North, Range 16 East WM

Replacement Properties:

Kittitas County, an unspecified 221.31 acres in a 1,265-acre block that covers portions of Section 8, 17, and 20, Township 18 North, Range 22 East WM

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 30 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within **30 days** of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **February 8, 2014**

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Lisa Wood

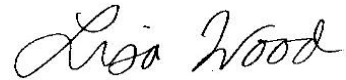
Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Lisa Wood at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call her at (360) 902-2260.

DATE OF ISSUE: January 9, 2014 **SIGNATURE:** _____



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 13-083. dns